

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete, marked-up listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parenthesis, underlined text indicating insertions, and strike through and/or double-bracketed text indicating deletions.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) [[Artificial]] An artificial turf mat, comprising:
a backing; [[and]]
a number of protruding artificial grass blades divided into rows and connected thereto[[.]]; and a mutual distance between successive blades in a row being substantially equal to the distance between adjacent rows and amounting to at least 10 mm at least one support loop formed in between successive grass blades,
wherein the at least one support loop protrudes less in relation to the grass blades from the backing, and the at least one support loop being formed outside the row of grass blades.
2. (Currently Amended) [[Artificial]] The artificial turf mat as claimed in claim [[1]] 27, wherein the mutual distance between the blades and the row spacing amount to at least 13 mm.
3. (Currently Amended) [[Artificial]] The artificial turf mat as claimed in claim 1, wherein the backing and the grass blades are formed and mutually connected by weaving.

4. (Currently Amended) [[Artificial]] The artificial turf mat as claimed in claim 1, wherein the backing is a fabric and the grass blades are connected thereto by tufting.

5. (Currently Amended) [[Artificial]] The artificial turf mat as claimed in claim 4, wherein the grass blades are formed from a continuous [[fibre]] fiber.

6.-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) [[Artificial]] The artificial turf mat as claimed in claim 1, wherein the grass blades are formed from monofilament [[fibre]] fiber.

11. (Currently Amended) [[Artificial]] An artificial turf field, comprising [[an]] the artificial turf mat as claimed in claim 1 and a layer of loose filling material arranged thereon, [[the]] a thickness of which is less than [[the]] a length of the artificial grass blades.

12. (Currently Amended) [[Method]] A method for forming an artificial turf mat, comprising:

supplying a backing material,

supplying an artificial turf material,

forming a backing from the backing material, and

connecting blades of the artificial turf material divided into rows to the backing,
~~such that their mutual spacing in a row is substantially equal to the mutual distance
between adjacent rows and amounts to at least 10 mm~~

wherein the backing material is formed into a fabric and the blades are
connected to the fabric by tufting, and wherein at least one support loop is tufted into
the fabric between successive blades, in which the at least one support loop is pressed
less far through the fabric than the adjacent blades, the at least one support loops
being formed outside the row of blades.

13. (Currently Amended) [[Method]] The method as claimed in claim
[[12]] 30, wherein the blades are connected to the backing at [[a]] the mutual distance
and [[a]] row spacing of at least 13 mm.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) [[Method]] The method as claimed in claim
[[15]] 30, wherein the fabric is guided along a series of reciprocally moveable tufting
needles placed adjacently of each other at the row distance, and [[the]] a speed of
forward movement of the fabric and [[the]] a stroke speed of the tufting needles are
adjusted to each other such that between successive strokes of the tufting needles the
fabric is displaced substantially through the row distance.

17. (Currently Amended) [[Method]] The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the fabric is stopped after each displacement through the row distance.

18.-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) [[Method]] The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the artificial turf material includes monofilament fibres.

24. (Currently Amended) [[Method]] The method for forming an artificial turf field by arranging on a ground an artificial turf mat as claimed in claim 1, and spreading thereover a layer of loose filling material to a thickness which is less than the length of the artificial grass blades.

25. (New) The artificial turf mat as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one support loop is formed from another fiber material than the grass blades.

26. (New) The artificial turf mat as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the grass blades and the at least one support loop are formed from a relatively thick or heavy fiber material.

27. (New) The artificial turf mat as claimed in claim 1, wherein a mutual distance between successive grass blades in a row is substantially equal to the distance between adjacent rows and amounts to at least 10 mm.

28. (New) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the at least one support loop is formed from another fiber material and connected to the fabric by another set of tufting needles than the blades.

29. (New) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein at least one of the blades and the at least one support loop are formed from a relatively thick or heavy fiber material.

30. (New) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the blades are connected to the backing such that their mutual spacing in a row is substantially equal to a mutual distance between adjacent rows and amounts to at least 10 mm.